

Spelling Connections – Primary Grades

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ISBNs - 073672-0588, 073672-0596, 073672-060x, 073672-0677, 073672-0618, 073672-0685, 073672-0626, 073672-0693

Edition - FIRST

Grade Level	P1 – P4
Readability Level	ON GRADE LEVEL
Course / Content	Spelling
List Price:	7.32
Wholesale Price	5.4900000000000002

The features of each book or program were developed by the publisher and do not reflect the opinion of the Kentucky State Review Team Kentucky State Textbook Commission or the Kentucky Department of Education.

Content	Grade K: Every unit in the Kindergarten student edition makes the important early connections developing spellers need in phonemic awareness, sound-symbol awareness, letter awareness, and spelling awareness
Student Experiences	Grades K - 8: Students learn more spelling strategies; retain more of their learning using practical study tools, exercises, and activities; and transfer more spelling knowledge for success in reading, writing, and on tests
Assessment	Grades K-8: Assessment and Review Units in the student edition provide unique opportunities to measure students' understanding of targeted spelling strategies. Assessment tools-such as survey tests, review activities, weekly pretests, and a choice of three post-test options for each unit-help teachers monitor student progress so they can effectively plan and manage overall classroom instruction and activities
Organization	Grade K: Spelling Connections for Kindergarten features a systemic and explicit instructional program that helps students (a) develop phonemic awareness, (b) practice and learn sound-symbol awareness, (c) improve handwriting skills while developing letter awareness, and (d) build foundational spelling and language skills
Resource Materials	See Available Ancillary Materials
Gratis Items to be provided and under what conditions	Grades 1-8: The following will be provided at no charge when a classroom set of 20 student editions is purchased the first year of implementation: Teacher Edition (contains Word Sort CD-ROM); Teacher Resource Book; Practice Book for Grammar, Usage, and Me
Available Ancillary Materials	Grade K: ABC Poem and Picture Charts \$210.99

Research Data and Evidence of Effectiveness

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publisher and does not reflect the opinion of the State Review Team, the State Textbook Commission, or the Kentucky Department of Education.

Research Available YES - provide information below
 Spelling Connections Research and Stages of Spelling Development
 by J. Richard Gentry, Ph.D.
 Five Questions Teachers Ask About Spelling: An Interview with J. Richard Gentry,
 Ph.D.
 Self-Regulated Learning in Spelling: What, How, and Why
 by Karen Harris, Ed.D., and Steve Graham, Ed.D.
 A Student-Active Learning Approach to Spelling Instruction
 by Jerry Zutell, Ph.D.

Overall Strength and/or Weaknesses

Disclaimer: Comments on the strengths and/or weaknesses of each book, material or program were written by members of the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team and reflect their opinions. They do not reflect the opinions of the State Textbook Commission nor the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team completed each evaluation form during summer of 2005. In order to maintain the integrity of the review team's comments, editing was limited to spelling and punctuation.

Recommendations:

Summary Form

I.	Technology Component Summary	1.000.00
II.	Reading Content Summary The students read sentences and connect the spelling words with them. The words are broken down into strategy words and content words so that the student can better understand where they might see the words other than in isolation.	1.5
III.	Writing Content Summary Students are given the opportunity to write within the lesson and a writing process model is on the page and notes which stage the child will be working in that particular lesson.	1.63
IV.	Grammar and Spelling Content Summary Frequently the students are given an opportunity to write with the aid of the writing process model. Educators are given a booklet entitled "Spelling Connections Research and Stages of Spelling Development" which highlights the research done.	1.50
V.	Listening /Speaking / Observing Content Summary	
VI.	Inquiry Content Summary	
VII.	Technology Content Summary CD is provided that has interactive spelling and word search activities and games. There is also a Word Sort CD that can be used to print out hands-on cards for sorting in First-Third grades.	
VIII.	Audience: Teacher Materials Content Summary	1.25
IX.	Audience: Student Materials Content Summary	1.00
X.	Format Content Summary The KY Core Content is correlated with the pages of the text in a separate publication.	1.33
XI.	Ancillary Materials Content Summary There is support for second language learners which offers vocabulary practice and teaching strategies.	1.00

READING CONTENT

Students are exposed to reading genres as they progress through the text. Kindergarten students are read a poem that contains words using the letter they are working on that week. Then they are given words that begin with the letter to practice writing.

The students see the written spelling words in a variety of ways.

The students read sentences and connect the spelling words with them. The words are broken down into strategy words and content words so that the student can better understand where they might see the words other than in isolation.

Students phonemic awareness is reinforced during the Spelling Connections lesson.

The spelling text presents phonics in every lesson. It allows the student to see the structure of the word and to decode the word.

This material allows the student to be able to recognize the word in other content areas by teaching the strategies for the student to understand and retain what they learn about the words.

Assessment is addressed daily and then a cumulative assessment is given each week if the educator so chooses.

The text uses different genres to teach the importance of correctness in writing.

The materials were reviewed as a set.

This material was reviewed as a set.

WRITING CONTENT

Students are given the opportunity to write within the lesson and a writing process model is on the page and notes which stage the child will be working in that particular lesson.

Prompts are given to the student and then the student uses these prompts to complete the assignment. A writer's workshop is also presented in the text.

The model of the Writing Process is noted on the side of the prompt so that the students are continually aware of the steps.

Students are given the opportunity to write sentences, stories, dramas, poetry, etc. using the list words for that week. It affords the teacher an opportunity to assess the student's work for understanding.

The text emphasizes the importance of correctness in spelling and writing. Students are given multiple opportunities to write, revise, and edit their spelling.

The students are given an opportunity to write in a different genre over the course of study.

Since this is a spelling book the lessons focus on spelling, along with other grammar strands.

The student has many opportunities to practice the spelling words and writing.

GRAMMAR AND SPELLING

Grammar, usage, and mechanics are noted in the Writer's Workshop pages at different times throughout the year. Practice is given in the strand that is introduced.

Cues and strategies are given to the student in order to expand their knowledge base so that they can become a successful writer.

Frequently the students are given an opportunity to write and the writing process model is there to guide them.

Students are given an opportunity to write in the several genres.

Educators are given a booklet entitled "Spelling Connections Research and Stages of Spelling Development" which highlights the research done by Dr. J. Richard Gentry.

There are opportunities to address the student's learning styles.

List words are presented in the appropriate writing style for Grades K-Second then in both manuscript and cursive for Grade Three.

There are many opportunities for the students to learn the words in both isolation and context.

There are pages dedicated to teaching the students the strategies for learning how to spell words.

Word comparisons, patterns, and other strategies are introduced in the primary.

When the students are doing a writing prompt the spelling text shows the emphasis in editing by pointing to that particular step in the writing process model.

Students have the opportunity to check their work and to hone their spelling skills.

Dictionaries are present in the back of the First and Second grade books and dictionaries and thesauri are in the Third grade books. There is also high frequency word lists for the First and Second grade levels.

These materials were reviewed as a set.

LISTENING / SPEAKING / OBSERVING

INQUIRY TECHNOLOGY CONTENT

A CD is provided that has interactive spelling and word search activities and games. There is also a Word Sort CD that can be used to print out hands-on cards for sorting in First - Third grades.

AUDIENCE: TEACHER MATERIALS

The teacher materials furnish strategies to address the learning styles of the students. The materials include strategies for addressing different learning styles, language and cultural differences. Snapshots of the student pages are shown in the teacher's edition and on coordinated pages. These materials were reviewed as a set.

AUDIENCE: STUDENT MATERIALS

There are cues called One-Minute Handwriting Hints that allow for handwriting practice. Students are given the opportunity to continue to work on writing whether it is in a formal grammar class or in spelling. The KY Core Content is correlated with the pages of the text in a separate publication. These materials were reviewed as a set.

FORMAT

A Scope and Sequence is included in each teacher's edition. The writing process model is present throughout the text. The week's spelling list is present on all the pages. Illustrations show diversity when appropriate. Many of the illustrations depict the word in the lower primary grades. The format of the pages are age appropriate. The softcover book for Kindergarten and First grade may show deterioration with constant use. However, the texts for Second and Third grades are hard cover books and may be more durable.

Dictionaries are available in the Kindergarten-Second grade with a Thesaurus added for Third grade. High frequency word lists, test strategies, writing process guide and ideas, and handwriting models are also in the appendix.

ANCILLARY MATERIALS

The Home spelling practice book offers additional practice for the student and also keeps the parents abreast of what the child is learning. Activities for various learning styles are located in the teacher's edition. There is support for second language learners which offers vocabulary practice and teaching strategies. These materials were reviewed as a set.